

Narrator: Zack Davis

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Date:

Project: Down East Change

Zack Davis: [00:08] As far as environmental change and market changes, when I was—20 years ago, you could sell a 40/50 count shrimp for \$2 a pound spring of the year. No problem. The fishing piers, the bait tackle shops would buy them. I don't know how they got rid of them, but they did, and they got rid of everything you can catch. They won't even touch them now, you know. The stuff we're getting—\$2.50 maybe even \$3 a pound for in May—right now, they won't even buy them. It's not a matter of, "Oh, it's a bad price." It's, "We're not buying those shrimp," you know. So in the last 20 years, the market has changed a lot locally. So when you take out those months of employment or profit for fishermen, all of a sudden, your yearly salary just cuts, cuts, cuts, cuts. Some of that has been made up. There's a lot of people got out of the industry. So the people that's left catch a lot of product. When I was a boy, the amount of shrimp that we catch now was unheard of. I mean, you've heard about legends of making 30-basket drags. And like, "Oh, my God, how do you even catch that many shrimp?" Now, a 30-basket drag—we'll knock out two of them in a good day in the fall, we'll knock out 2 30-basket drags. You know, that's average.

So the people that's left are making decent money. They're catching a lot of product because the competition is kind of dwindled. But that's not necessarily a good thing. When you go in Pamlico Sound, like last week, we shrimped in the Pamlico Sound, it's the middle of July, and there wasn't a boat in sight. That's a bad, bad sign. That's like your litmus test for the industry, if you will. And it's not real good. So there's a lot of lot of changes environmentally, believe it or not, there's a lot of changes that's happened. I'm gonna say, in the last 10-15 years, we've had a real big up-shift in fall and winter shrimping, and a downshift in spring shrimping. So we have three different species. We've got spotted shrimp, summer shrimp and white shrimp, or green tails in fall. The green tails are like a warm water species. Spotted shrimp are like a cold water species, and your summer shrimp are like a middle ground in between. So 20-30 years ago, the spotted shrimp was the fishery in the spring. Year was great year. We'd start in late March or early April, and work right until late June, and we'd start out small. They'd retail them, not many shrimp, but you were getting a good price for them. June, you'd be catching big spotted shrimp and small summer shrimp, and had to kind of transition into summer shrimp, bigger summer shrimp, late, and then the green tail season was like hit and miss. If you got one hurricane it would ruin season. So, one year you might have bonanza crop, next year you got a bonanza crop, and then a hurricane come in September and just wipe it out. You don't catch any. So, the fall and winter shrimp season are very, I'm going to say, environmentally dependent on your fall hurricanes. If we got some, you're probably not going to do great. Or if we've got some just a little bit later, and those larvae are big enough to flush out and survive, you'll have a bonanza season that'll all be in the ocean instead of inside.

So there's a lot of environmental factors on how the shrimp season pans out. If we've got a warm winter, we'll have a real good rose shrimp season. That was unheard of when I was growing up. You didn't hear about rose shrimp. That was a South Carolina and Georgia deal. And now, North Carolina has that same exact season—like they'll shrimp for two months, catching big ten, fifteens. And 20 years ago, that was a South Carolina or Georgia shrimp fishery, maybe even Florida. So that's kind of environmental sign that—and I don't know how much, I don't know what the average is. I don't know the scientific statistics by it, but I can tell you for fact, just looking at that one species moving north, right there tells you we've got some kind of warming issue in the climate, on average, in the last two decades. And the same thing with that fall, or the spotted shrimp fishery. That's nonexistent. Now we don't even shrimp for that, like, we don't even go but there's—they're not there.

And 20 years ago, that was a two-month like, "Shoot, we'll make as much in the spring as we would during the summer." So environmentally, I know for fact, something's changing. Not sure what the difference is, not sure what the variations are. Maybe it's real cold over winter temperatures in the past, not so much now. I have no idea. I just know it is. As far as sea level rise—God, that's when things like—it's kind of like your kid. If you see your kid every single day, you don't really notice how they're growing. If you don't see your kid for two months and they show up like, you're like, Dang, they've grown six inches." Okay? Somebody that grew up here and moved away and come back 20 years later would look around say, "My God, what's happened? What's happened?" For somebody that lives here, you don't notice it. You just, it's just little bit at the time, like the pine trees are a telltale sign. The first time I noticed real bad pine tree die-off problems was in North River, kind of right before you get East Carteret on that North River stretch. And at the time, everybody said, "Oh, it's pine beetles. It's a pine beetle infestation. It's pine beetles doing it." Happened to be right after Hurricane Fran and Bertha. Okay, North River got the tidal surge of that hurricane on a wind surge. It wasn't an eye surge. It was a wind surge blowing up North River. And we didn't really have—we went through a decade of not many hurricanes. You know, the from '96 probably, God, until Isabel hit, there wasn't many consistent hurricanes.

ZD: [0:07:19] We went through like a seven- or eight-year pattern, maybe even a 10-year pattern where we had a storm, but it wasn't a bad one. You get no surge, no 100 -110 mile an hour winds. It was good. Isabel probably was the light switch that changed that. That was about a 10-year period from '96,'97. Floyd was bad, but we didn't really get a tidal surge. Floyd was more inland flooding in Kinston area from rainfall; we didn't really see a big flooding event here. Isabel was different, that flooded with storm surge, saltwater surge a lot of land Down East. We got a lot of flooding here. I mean, there was saltwater from the eastern side of Marshallberg that come all the way across the community. It was on this road all the way to that curve. So at the corner store, it was about that deep [Davis gestures to knee to indicate depth]. Where y'all turned to come here to gas station was about knee deep at that store. And that was saltwater storm surge. That wasn't rain. It was salt water. And I'm going to say from that point forward, we've had a pretty consistent coastal pine tree die off. I mean, you can look at Browns Island, Bells Island, Davis Shore, the stretch between Davis and Stacy, from Stacy to Sea Level, any pine trees that's remotely in a low-lying area are dead or dying. End of discussion. There is no disputing that. I would attribute that probably 100% to saltwater intrusion in the ground from storm surge. I mean, it's just basic fact of life. You know, you get a storm surge up to a certain point, pine trees die to that certain point, and past it, they're fine. It's not rocket science. You know, I saw that kind of stuff back in my childhood. I can remember driving from like Stumpy Point, Ingleman's Harbor area. And I was like, "Man, all the trees are dead in this area." And I think that's probably what it was from. I don't really know. God it's been 30, 35 years ago, but that was first time I really saw a mass tree die-off. And wondered to myself, even at that young age, "Huh, wonder what's going on here." It's obviously not acid rain. You know, you hear about acid rain in industrial cities or around there, but it's hurricanes doing it here. We've been through a lot of storms lately. Had a lot of big, nice trees blow down.

ZD: [09:42] I kind of question whether you'll see the biology or ecosystem here in—I won't be around to see it—but in 100 years, is it going to look like the coast of Georgia, South Carolina? You know, are we going to see fewer pine trees and more live oak trees? I have no answer. I have no theories. It's just something that you drive down the coast from, like, "Well, shoot. Florida don't have any pine trees. There's no pine trees here." I wonder if it's because, over the years they've had so many hurricanes, pine trees just don't grow. You know, not big, not big, healthy pine forest, like you see up here right on the coast. It's more palm trees or low-lying live oak, some kind of low-lying shrubbery, Kind of as you move up, your coastal trees in Georgia and South Carolina, or your big live oaks. Here, the pine trees certainly are not faring too good. You know what I mean? So in 100 years, what's the landscape going to look like? And I think the live oak trees, obviously, they can survive that salt water environment, because they're growing, God, they're sitting 2, 3, 4 hundred years on Shackleford. They've been through it. They've withstood stood litmus test, you know what I mean, as far as environmental factors. So I

don't know what to say about sea level rise. I just know that storm impact has taken an effect on the landscape around here, for sure. There's no question about that. The trees are kind of a telltale sign. I mean, you look here, we've got big pecan trees and sycamore trees. As far as I know, and I've—my granddad is 80, 84 years old. He's lived here all his life, and his he knew his granddaddy. As far as I know, there's never been saltwater touch any of this. There's never been—Isabel was as close as I ever saw, and that come up here to the curve. As far as I know, there's never been saltwater on this property. And we're really only about six feet above sea level. I will say that Beaufort is one right hurricane away from being utter devastation, because Beaufort Inlet has got so wide, and they dredge it so deep in the channel, but it's the width that, if you take the right hurricane with the eyewall coming in Emerald Isle area, where that they get a direct impact of south wind, Beaufort is going to far real common, because there's nothing to stop it. There's the barrier island there—when that one particular stretch of sand is gone and happens to be right in their face. Hopefully, they'll dodge the bullet.

Florence could have been that potential, but it came from the east. So the wind direction, Davis Shore and Stacy got heavy impact, because the water come in Ophelia Inlet, and that's the community that's in a direct shot from that ocean water coming through the inlet. That's why Davis Shore saw, you know, every house flooded, except for like, five. We didn't have any flooded houses here. We fared in good shape, but we had the barrier island's there to protect us. Just north of here, they got the inlet—flood waters come in, you're going to get flooded. Beaufort's in that same situation with the south hurricane wind. If you get the right scenario, you'll see utter devastation on Front Street. Probably not back off of Front Street, like Ann Street and those places, I don't think you'd get that hard, but Front Street would be tore up pretty bad from storm surge. And that's, you know. We'll see if this is headquarters coming in. [Davis chats with son in background for a minute]

ZD: Y'all have any more questions?

TH: [14:58] Yeah. Yeah, sure. I think based on what I was hearing from you, I would be curious as to if you would have any recommendations around policy for what's going on here, with flooding and even with fishing too.

ZD: [15:30] That's a really good question.

TH: Yeah, well, please feel free to sit with it for a bit.

ZD: [15:35] Fishing policy. I think the DMF, the Division of Marine Fisheries Commission—and I'll give credit to the fisheries director, as well as the people that's working there. They seem to be, more recently, in the last year or two, more willing to work with fishermen and listen and try to meet in the middle and help everybody involved. The DMF, the Commission, seems to be historically stacked kind of against commercial fishing. They are very, very, very adamant, at least bringing forward vote issues on gill nets and shrimp trawls. I mean, it's a pretty known fact that there's a lot of people that don't like gill nets and don't like shrimp trawls and want to see them, not in North Carolina, and I'll leave it at that. Personally, I haven't seen a single fish get depleted so much that it's not available from either one of those two gear types. You know, we've been shrimp trawling since the 1940s here. We've been setting gill net since the 1920s. Nothing's going extinct. There's still plenty of fish. There's less effort, there's better gear, there's more efficient gear than there's ever been in the history of commercial fishing. And yet, it's not enough. You know, if it was a problem, it would have been a problem in the 1980s and '70s when we were pulling no TEDs, no Bycatch Reduction Devices, there was 3000 boats instead of 300 boats in the state.

If there was a problem, it would have shown in the 1980s not in 2024. In 2024, if there is a problem, I can tell you that the shrimp trawlers and the gill nets are not the issue. Water runoff, probably so. Pollution probably, so. Overfishing? It is bothersome to me, for me to go to the Cape on weekend, there's not a single hook and line

fisherman trying to catch a jumping mullet with a hook. They might be trying to catch them for bait with the cast net. Nobody's trying to catch jumping mullet with a hook, because they don't bite hooks. They don't eat bait. I can go there and set a gill net in a circle and catch solely, 100% only jumping mullets. And because I'm using a gill net, I'm a criminal. I'm the bad guy. I'm doing something destructive. And it's really perturbing to me that you have a population base of recreation fishermen that look at me catching a fish that you cannot catch with a hook. I'm not catching any bycatch. I'm not destroy, disturbing any bottom. I'm sitting on this one specific fish, catching only that one specific fish with a gear that's-- can only be used to catch that fish. And I'm the criminal. I'm the bad guy because I'm using that gear. Very, very, very aggravating to me that you have a population that is that ill-educated. They're just not educated. That's what's aggravating the most—that people are just that closed-minded and unwilling to listen and cooperate and say, “Oh, they're not hurting a thing. They're just setting the gill net to catch jumping mullet so they can have a mess of fish to eat.” But it's outlawed for me because of the DMF. I can't set a gill net to the Cape to catch a jumping mullet on the weekend. I can't possess a jumping mullet on the weekend. The DMF goes off of stock landings. Okay, stock landings are reported by commercial fishing landings.

What's happened to commercial fishing last 20 years? Down, down, down, down, down, down. Okay? Road mulleting—the year of COVID, we did great shrimping. But guess where all the mullet roe goes? They ship it to Japan. When Japan shuts down its parties, they don't have any caviar need. They cut out the roe mullet industry. Those couple of years, nobody went roe mulleting. Well, in the landings for the DMF, it looks like, my god, the fish are in decline. We've got to do something, we've got to protect them there. There's no landings. The fish must be in a population stress. They're overfished. No, it's because we didn't catch them. We were getting \$3 a pound for shrimp, and Japan weren't buying roe. But the general public don't know that inside story, and the DMF uses those landing statistics to say, “Hey, we've got something overfished. We need to outlaw roe mulleting, and we need to outlaw mullet fishery entirely.” They're using it as a gill net ban. End of discussion. I can't set a gill net on the weekend to Cape, because I'm catching jumping mullets. It's little things like that that people in the industry that's educated know that the general public is-- they don't have a clue. It's just like the flounder populations. You can walk across the flounders. What do they base flounder stocks off of? Commercial landings. What's happened in the flounder fishing industry in North Carolina in the last 20 years? They cut it a little bit. Landings went down. They cut a little bit more. Oh, we caught some sea turtles, “You had a sea turtle interaction, got to shut down the fishery.” Cut it back a little bit more. Landings go down. “Oh, well, your pound nets can only be set in this area.” Cut it down a little bit more. Next year, “Oh, your gill nets can only be set this time of day.” Cut it down a little bit more. Your landings year after year go down, down, down, down, down. Oh, what? “Well, you can't, you can't keep one 14 inches this year—it's got to be 15.” Okay, every 14-inch fish is now not landed. Even though they're a marketable fish, they're perfectly fine to filet and eat. Can't keep them.

The landings go down, down, down, down, down over 10 years, and all of a sudden, you've got, you got a population that must be overfished. They're just not landing any of them. “They must be overfished. We need to close it down.” That's how the Fisheries Division lies with statistics. And they've wrote college books on—you could take a college statistics class and say, “Hey, you can lie and get your point across. Just use the statistics you want to.” You know, the general public doesn't see the big picture. They're not educated, and that's the problem I see with policy and regulation. It's not common sense based, and at this point, I'm not even sure it's science based, because the last push I had to fight a battle from January right until May of submerged aquatic vegetation. They wanted to ban all of Core—basically all of Core Sound, where we shrimp. There was one little area where we shrimp down off of Davis that they wanted to stay open, but, okay, because of submerged aquatic vegetation. If you want to get into the details, go talk to Kathy Rawls about it, because we fought tooth and nail. Monica Smith put together a plethora of information on 1985 data compared to 2024 data. The state did the studies of the decline in areas that ain't seen a trawler ever, and it was a 90% reduction in SAVs. That alone right there alone tells you trawlers ain't the problem. But they use that to say, “Hey, we need to close this

area.” They don't want trawlers here. End of discussion. And they're pushing that agenda, and they have been for 15 years now, with the sole purpose of getting trawlers out of inland waters. End of discussion. Yeah. I mean, you can argue that point, but look at the regulations they've tried to pass last 15 years. Tell me what they do.

ZD: [25:06] Shift gears, put her in reverse and then back in first gear. Policy on building: this is a double-edged sword, because my cousin just built a house right there on land that we've that my family has owned, I'm going to say, for 200 years. For 200 years? Was it 2024? 1820, yeah, about 200 years we've owned that point. The double-edged sword is this: He's a local, been family land all his life, wants to build a house, nowhere else to go. There's this house. Everybody that lives Down East as locals look at that and says, “Oh, man, that's great. We got—they got a nice little family, beautiful house right on the water. Man, they're so fortunate.” Okay, flip the coin. Some fellow just bought that point for \$250,000, and he's built a half a million-dollar house on it. “That S.O.B. has moved here from Raleigh, and he's built a house right in my view of Sleepy Creek. We don't think they ought to be able to build a house that close to the water.” There's the double-edged sword with policy on building close to the water or not building close to the water, or building on this piece of property, or saying, “Hey, I'm getting ready to buy that piece of land down the road, and I'll probably have to put \$20,000 worth of dirt on it to build a house.”

But for my young, that's the only option they got if they want to build an actual house, what else we going to do? You've got to find some land that's not built and make it buildable. That's the double-edged sword of building policies in low-lying areas. And yeah, that house being right on the point probably causes a little bit more runoff. I don't know what the answer is. I just know I'm glad he was able to build it right there, and is fortunate enough to have a house on the water with a nice view on family land. I hope in 200 years, there's a Davis living there, or, well, he's a Daniel, so it'll be Daniels living there. You know, he married my girl's cousin, Delson Davis. I don't know what the answer is on policy. I do know that if you ever see city sewer and water systems come Down East, the dynamics will change fast. Personally, I'd rather keep it well and septic systems. I just would. Septic systems go back in the ground. I think environmentally, I think they're more proactive than a sewer system and then dumping it. It's got to go somewhere. I'm pretty sure they dump it back in the water. I don't know. I mean, you can look at Florida and what's going on in the Indian River, and I don't think it's a good option for Core Sound. And if you ever saw city and water come into Down East Carteret County, that's the type of building you'll see in 50-60 years from now. That would be my fear.

So as far as policy, I would like to see the area stay on well water and sewers, you know, septic systems. I think it kind of spreads things out enough that you don't have an overpopulation of mansions. But you know, in theory, they could have built a four-story mansion right there on the same footprint, and you would have something that looks similar to Harkers Island. Harkers Island is changing a lot. Straits is changing a lot. There's places in Atlantic and Cedar Island that are changing a lot—the house dynamics. You won't see that, typically speaking, you won't see that from locals living here full time. That's somebody that's either got a business, they're business owners, it's a vacation home, that kind of stuff. Economy seems to be transitioning more towards tourism in Carteret County, and that's not necessarily a bad thing. You just take some adaptations for a lot of people. Shoot, it's no problem to go out to eat in the winter time, but the summer time, god darn, it's an hour wait everywhere you go. We don't go out to eat much during the summer because of it. I mean, it's a tourist attraction. I mean, you know, it's the Crystal Coast [laughs]. And I'm a sole proprietor of it. I own a rental house right there. Just rent it pretty much nonstop for six months out of the year. I can't complain about it, but you have to adapt. You can't sit back and, pardon my French, bitch and gripe about dingbatters. Okay, my best friend come here from off, they live here full time. I've got a rental house. It's a tourist attraction, but I've made the adaptation. I've said, “Hey, there's some nice people with kids my age. Maybe I invite them over for supper. Invite them to church. They're great.” She teaches my daughter's Sunday school class, the lady does, and we've only met them a couple years ago. Just moved down here. They've been vacationing here for a decade. So that's

the type of influx that you have. [interruption from dog] I would say the mentality of locals is, it's almost like black and white. Either they're like, "Oh yeah, you're from off. Come experience what we're experiencing. Come, play. Come have fun. Come to Cape. Join us. You're our friends now." And on the other side of that coin, you've got some people that are just adamant, "They're from off. We're not talking to them, you know, they're from off." You know, there's a lot of animosity. I don't hold that. We have great friends here. There's some great friends in Atlantic, but they are very much so like-minded people. You know, they love going shrimp, going cast netting, and we go mulleting—it doesn't matter, they'll like it. I don't know what policy we would make Down East avoid what you see in Wrightsville Beach, Wilmington area—the overhouse structure. But whatever policy that entails would probably be beneficial in the long run, not to have huge housing developments. But on the other side of that, you know, there's a couple of them on Harkers Island. They're very successful, and it's changed the dynamics of the island, for sure. But look at the benefit that it's brought in as far as retail base, money base. So it's a double-edged sword. You have an influx of population and money, but you also have an influx of higher prices, higher values, higher taxes, higher-- you know. So that's a hard discussion to have, and I don't know. I don't know the right answer to it for sure. Don't even know if I'd have an opinion on it. I just know what's happening. I don't know. I don't know how to explain what, how to avoid, or what you even should avoid, because there's cost and there's benefits on both sides of that coin for locals and non-locals alike. I certainly can't rope it off and say, "Hey, this is this is mine. You can't have it." I love it here because we've got a one of the best national parks in the United States of America is right here. For me to say, "Hey, you can't come enjoy this," would be kind of self-centered. You know what I mean?

TH: Sure, absolutely.

ZD: You got any other questions?

Ryan McCune (RM): [34:39] I'm curious to circle back, so you were mentioning that you're concerned about Beaufort and Front Street, particularly with a storm potentially coming through. I know that Front Street's been flooding more often outside of storms, and I was wondering if you've seen similar increases in that around Down East.

ZD: [34:56] When you live here, you don't notice it.

RM: Gotcha.

ZD: You just, you're so used, you're used to it. You know what I mean? [laughs] I was like, "Oh, it's going to blow northeast for a week, 40-mile an hour. Just go loosen the lines on the boat and drive safe." You know, you don't really think about how the frequency or the duration. I do distinctly remember there was a fairly substantial flooding event in October, and there was no hurricane associated with it. We just had like a week long spell of rain, where it rained like 10-20 inches inland. And about two weeks later, it happened to be full moon, and it happened to be blowing northeast, and it was like all the water come out the rivers, pushed down the Sound. And it was neat tides, anyway, on the moon cycle. And there was a week probably straight-- for at least four days-- that every day the roads in Marshallberg was flooded, all on the eastern side was flooded. I mean the water all over. It wasn't like a hurricane surge, like it weren't up to your—but it was ankle deep. You had to drive slow through it, and it was twice a day for a week just on the tide cycle. That was like one of those freaky currents. I had never seen it like that outside of a hurricane. I hadn't seen it since, you know, it just happened. It wouldn't be much different than going to Kinston and saying, "Well, we feel like you're having a flood more here." Well, no, we just had a 100-year flood, and we happened to be a to be alive during a 100-year flood. You know, 100 years ago, there was no records of it. It happened, but nobody recorded it. Same thing. I don't know, as far as sea level rise, I don't know the occurrence rate, or if we're just going through a cycle that's 100 years

old and nobody knows. Hell, these pine trees are 100 years old. They could have been no pine trees here 100 years ago, and all of a sudden you go through a down cycle, and you don't have many storms, and you don't have the storm surge. And over 20 years, the saltwater leaches out of the groundwater, and the pine trees grow again. And you know, we might just be on a cycle that's 100 year cycle, or some junk like that. Nobody really thinks about it like that. I don't know, but I can tell you where we're at. Yeah, we've had a lot of pine trees like die off. You know, you go to Browns Island and there's thousands, I guess, of dead pine trunks sticking up that are dead. They're just the trunks. The tops are rotted off, blown off, whatever. Okay, thousands there, all right.

In the last 10 years, all of a sudden there's new growth underneath. You can see pine trees starting to pop up again. Okay? So if we don't have a storm or some kind of big salt water event in the next two decades, three decades, 30 year old pine tree would be 60, 50, you know, 60 feet tall. So you have to question that a little bit. Where are we at in the cycle is no different than the Outer Banks. Outer Banks. Everybody thinks, oh yeah, they're etched in stone, that doesn't change. And you probably know this because of your environmental background. The best class I took at UNCW was "Coastal Inlets and Tidal Deltas." And we spent a semester talking about how the barrier islands were formed, how the marshes formed, how the creeks were formed, looking at sand flow, tree line flow. Everybody thinks that the Cape is, oh, that it's been like that for forever. No, that inlet weren't even there in 1930, it didn't exist. It was all connected. And now everybody looks at it like, "Oh, this, this is great. This should be like this forever, etched in stone." It's just like Ophelia Inlet. They call it Ophelia Inlet because it was blown by Hurricane Ophelia, opened it up. Before it was Drum Inlet, and that closed up. Then there was New Drum Inlet, mile up the beach. Then that closed up. Then there was new old Drum Inlet, which was the original Drum. Then that closed up and Ophelia blew one a half-mile down the beach. Everybody called it Ophelia Inlet. On the chart, the current charts it's Ophelia Inlet now, but 10 years ago, it was Drum Inlet. Then you can look at the water dynamics on the entire Sound from Cedar Island all the way to the Cape. Every single one of those creeks, at some point in history, was an inlet. That's hard for people to fathom that right there at, one time, Horse Pen Creek, there was the inlet there. Because you don't form a marsh delta in a creek that's six, seven foot deep, bending into the Southwest, without having an inlet that then migrated south and south, and that channel migrated south and south, and then it closed up, and boom, you got a little creek with a marsh delta. And marsh grows. It takes 100 years to do it, but at one time, there was an inlet there.

Every single creek's like that. And maybe during—might have been 400 years ago, 400 years ago, when there was inlet there, I'll guarantee the dynamics of this place weren't the same. We had the salt. We had the ocean inlets coming in, fish migrations change. Everything changes. It's just like Ophelia Inlet, the channel, netters, before that was there, did great here, because everything got cuddle if you had to get out. But bofet was your option. That was it. Once that opened up, hey, migration patterns. All of a sudden everything stopped. To Atlantic, like you Oh, they caught 30 boxes of shrimp to Atlantic last night. Tonight. They were to be today. Shore. They never come past Atlantic. You know what? They went ocean. That inlet opens it up. It changes the entire dynamic. It changes the tide cycles, changes the migration patterns, changes the bottom type, changes everything, and that's happened 1000 times up and down our East Coast over the years. But nobody, nobody thinks about it. Nobody thinks in a long term, cause effect analysis, we're in the here and now moment, and how to adapt or change to the here and now. And that's why everybody wants that. Nobody wants anything to change. Problem is, you ain't gonna stop it. I don't care what kind of policy you got, you ain't gonna stop it. People to haters didn't stop that beach from coming washing out underneath their house. You ain't gonna stop Mother Nature, no matter what you do 200 years from now, is lobby underwater, I have no idea. And it's lobby to be the creeks dry. I don't know that answer. I just know that change is constant. Did that answer your question? I don't even know what the question was. Now,

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I was asking about that flood outside hurricane. Yeah, the

42:29

inlet, the inlet opens up, is, if you got a hurricane with the right ground wind direction, you're gonna suffer because of it and bother it's in that boat right now. But that's historically, I think both for him, it's been deep and wide at times since the since the beginning of the New America, if you will.

42:59

So I wondered if we could actually just backpedal a little bit Absolutely. Okay, great. Can you tell us about your parents and about what growing up on marsh in Marshallberg was like, oh, yeah,

43:11

yeah, it's having kids. Now I'm questioning my parents, parents in style and sanity level, because I, you know, when I was my son's age, of course, my brother was a little bit older than I was, so I was being the youngest. You kind of grew up. The younger kid always grows up a little faster, because they don't have the limitations of the older kid at the older kids they've got. You know, Dallas is seven. I'll turn him loose with Addie. She's 12. All of a sudden, he's got limitations of a 12 year old. And when she was seven, it was not like that. There was no 12 year old to turn her loose with. So her limitations a little bit restrictive. His is a little bit more liberal, and they grow up faster. So like when I was growing up, my brother got a skiff we go. Had a little outboard skiff, little six horsepower, if we can go fast, but it got us out in the creek. Manna boat in this area is freedom. You know, it's kind of like, kind of like Captain Jack Sparrow said on that *Pirates of the Caribbean*, maybe a boat. It really is. In this area, we had the freedom of at any time, just tell Mom, I'm going out in the boat. And we had restrictions. You can't go outside the creek. Okay, Sleepy Creek was it at a young age? And man, we go knock around, go pick up, try. I can remember real good being on trash, picking up detail. We just ride around Creek, pick up trash, like beer bottles, Pepsi, camp, whatever we just we were busy. We were boys. You know, it was outside all the time.

And my granddaddy got us in duck hunting. He had a houseboat and we'd go stay to the banks, and he build one duck blind. And he, you know, he was real good, he retired. So he, he kind of needed something to do when we probably needed something to do, when Daddy would always take a couple of weeks off of Christmas from the boat building, and he shut down, and we go live to the banks during Christmas break go duck hunting. Announced that we some days we shoot a few ducks, some days we just ride around out in the boat, just goof off. You know, I res—my brother resonated towards boat building. He worked in the boat with my daddy in the boat shop, all growing up and through his teenage and even in the college years, he worked with my daddy. I did not I never, never once I regret now not getting into it, at least more. I love the commercial fishing. So my uncle was under shrimp trawler, small, 30-35 foot. It was a day boat. There was no, there was none of that. You hear about trawlers gun outside, but there was no over. We didn't stay on the boat. It was, you go right here in the straits, making a few toes of an odd come in unload. It was the early 1990s, late 1980s, a good guy to \$25,000 a year salaries, probably decent average income for this county. Now, if you ain't making 60, you're poor. It's my, I can remember my daddy saying when I was in high school, if you're making 60 grand a year, you're gonna be barely scraping by. I said, Daddy, I'll be rich if I'm making 60 grand a year. He said, you wait. And sure enough, my guy, I don't know how they do it, because it's unreal, but growing up, you don't think about you just laying milk and honey as good God. Go get \$5 worth of gas, and you could ride for days in a little outboard up and down this creek. Go knock around swimming. We didn't, I don't know if we didn't have enough money, or my parents just instilled in us being happy with what you have, and maybe a combination of both. I really honestly don't know. They could probably tell you I know we weren't rich. We were not rich people. My daddy built charter boats for millionaires, but he grossly underpriced those boats because we never saw the benefits. Uh, other than, you know, your typical family skiing trip or a camping trip. We grew up we take a vacation to the to the mountains, just by every summer and fall to go tent camping, you know, at the National Park, we weren't living the whole life. We had a little skiff growing up, we'd knock around the creek. Daddy take us to the Cape.

We'd go snorkeling. We tent camped a lot before the houseboat era. We tent camped over at Shackleford and at the Cape. Growing up as little boys, you go over and spend a weekend or something.

You know, my parents are very, very if they ever get back to this, they'll kill me. They're very hippie oriented, you know, they were in the hippie area. They're kind of, you know, I don't call it, I don't know if you call it free loafer or freelance. They enjoyed the outdoors. Didn't have to have much build a campfire. They were happy, and they bought us up like that. There was no like, surfboards, three or \$400 certain. No, at best, we had a \$20 boogie board. At best. Some days we didn't have that. We'd go, quote, body surfing. We'd just go out there and stick your arm out and ride the wave till it crashed on you, half drowned, stand up, walk back out, get body surfing again. You know, that's the way we grew up. We didn't have nothing. We would have a piece of plywood that we called a skimboard. Our boat weren't fast enough to go like a like kneeboarding or something. We never had a boat that fast till we were teenagers in high school, we would take out little outboards and get a piece of plywood, and you could do stuff on that piece of plywood, but you weren't going but about five mile an hour, you know, there was no tubes. There was none of that, you know, wakeboard. We didn't have that stuff growing up, and I honestly don't know if it was because we were broke or if it was because we maybe my parents told us no, a lot to kind of teach us material things ain't gonna make you happy. If you're not happy with the \$20 bike, you're not gonna be happy with the \$500 bike. Be happy with the \$20 bike. I mean, when COVID hit, I went to my son was just at the age. He was on training wheels. We went got a bike. So I ain't got a bike. I'll go get one. I went to somewhere. They were \$150 sign. I won't get a used bike out the dump or something. I mean, all they need something go down there. Went, bought a \$20 bike from some guy on in Beaufort down off of Front Street, Steve bike shop, per se, had 100 bikes there. Paid him \$20 for the bike and \$10 for a new set of handlebars. And, man, I still got nothing. I love that. You know, I as a teacher, I tell students, happiness is not going to come from money. It is not, it's a mindset. And growing up, I think our parents kind of instilled that in us.

I got into the fishing industry with my uncle, and I'm not sure if it was because we snorkeled a lot and I liked aquatic life. I don't know why. I just resonated towards him. Maybe it was because he was my uncle, and your dad as a teenager, your dad's an asshole with rules, and anybody else is cool. You know, you don't want to be, and I'm the same way. Daddy, I went on a bike ride the other day. I said, howdy. I feel like I'm just an asshole with rules. He said, exactly, but thanks for the backup. So I kind of resonated towards my uncle, and he had the shrimp trawler. I shrimp with him for any time he'd take me, honestly, we'd go out here, make a toe come back. I sleep at home. Next evening, I'd be waiting on the dock. And that's how I got into I got my little Skiff when I was 12 years old, started shrimping by myself on a skiff when I was 12, all night long. And now, as a daddy, thinking of her, she's 12, I wouldn't turn her loose with this gift to go across the creek and pack in broad daylight with me riding on it, you know. And now I'm as a parent, I'm thinking, My God, what was my parents think? I guess they prayed a lot, I don't know a lot of faith, but I saved up, and my grandparents kind of footed the bill when I was in high school to upgrade and get a smaller boat or a bigger small boat. It was a 33-foot boat, pulled two shrimp trawls, and we I rigged it up in high school, did a lot of in class, same thing I'm teaching now in school, and we go shrimping right around here, and start saving up money. And boy, as a teenager, you just, sky's the limit. I was one of those kind of mindset people. I wanted bigger, bigger, bigger. Saved up money, paid my way through college, bought cars with that thing, commercial fishing,

53:12

then I sold that boat and bought a bigger one. The year after I got married, we built this house and bought a boat the same year. And my wife, bless her heart, she probably thought, What in the hell have I got into? In fact, it's the boat that my cousin runs now he owns it. Now we've, it's changed hands, but it's back to him now, 44 foot, and boy, I thought I was on the Titanic one. I bought that thing named Cod. I just took that thing to Flemish cap. Kind of saved up my money. At the time, in the industry, they were selling boats cheap, and I capitalized on

it. I let a fella run my boat. I bought another boat for dirt cheap. In today's world, dirt cheap, invested some money, fixed it, back up, then I run it myself. So I had two boats running. And as a business, you know, the boat kids share for maintenance and repairs. Boat account builds a little bit. When I was a young boy, my granddad, I always told my grandma, I want to build a shrimp trawler. He said, Well, if you'll graduate from Duke I'll build you a shrimp trawler. Well, as a teenager, that goes out the window. You know, as a high school student, I'm a Down East boy, straight A's ain't an option, and neither is Duke University. So, but I did go to college. My parents put the foot in my tail and said, You got to go, at least for a year. I stuck it out and started dating Cassandra and stuck it out with future goals, but anyways, I started letting two people run the boats for me year-round.

And the business aspect financially started to build a lot, and so the reality of building a boat started to become an option. Building materials are relatively inexpensive. I've got the knowledge, I've got the help, I've got the facility, and I guess by divine luck and invention, it all come together. I had no idea how it all come together. Looking back, I don't know how I did it, but I told Daddy I wanted to build a boat. He said, are you willing to dedicate every spare second for five years? I said, what do you mean? He says, going to take five years part time. I said, well, I guess so, yeah, during the start process, he drew it up for me. He built boats all his life. Took over my great-granddaddy's business, right there in that building, drew up boats all his life. Built boats all his life. He designed every boat. Jarrett Bay built from 2000 on to 2022 and even, I think, he had them projected out to 2025 just what he had finished up. Anyways, he drew one up, and by God, we started putting screws and glue together and plywood. And two and a half years later, we launched her, a lot of blood, sweat, tears and itchy nights. And I it dream come true. I don't know how to explain it other night, and right after I built it, Florence hit, and Daddy stayed on the boat in the creek during Florence to make sure I stayed here. We had a, we had a newborn baby, you know, with a one year old at the house. I didn't want to leave Cassandra here in the house by ourselves. That was like, I'll ride on the boat. Put the AC and generator on there. I'll ride her out. So he anchored right in the creek, stayed on it during the storm, and right after that, we got off the school, took two weeks to repair roofs and clean up yards and went shrimp in the third week. That was our maiden voyage, and it really, truly has been a dream come true. And I honestly don't know how to explain how I got here, other than the good Lord has blessed me, and I give all credit to that. Everything, everything is kind of, if I needed something, it fell right in my lap. No idea where it come from, how I got there, how we did it just fell right in my lap. You know what? God, my wife was working on a college degree, raising a newborn baby, building a boat, running two strings.

57:58

We did it. I really don't, but we did. We're here. We're living a rich life with no money. You know, I told somebody way back, this is when I was probably three years old. Somebody called me on the phone

58:20

talking about riding around the golf cart. Just brought my feet up, and he said, buddy, you're living a rich man. But I said, You dang right, I am. But money ain't got nothing to do with it. And that kind of gets back to the \$20 bike, you know, \$20 bike. Yeah.

58:40

Now what about teaching here for you?

58:43

What? What? Takes a lot of patience. The first couple of years were tough because I came in and took a position that was a 30-year vet that had a stellar program built, and my student teacher, fellow that student taught with a welding instructor in Orange County, and he told me, he said, Look, it's going to take you three years to be you. It's going to be it's going to take three years, he said, because everything for the first three years is Mr. Such

and Such did this, and Mr. Such and Such did that. And it takes you three years to be, for you to be Mr. Such and Such and establish your own routines, your own rhythms, your own classroom management. But I have not regretted a second of teaching here. I started out ag ed, taught ag mechanics and animal science, and that was it was good, but it was not my passion, welding and marine trades. See, when I was in school, we had a 25-year vet teacher that taught marine trades, and I took it because it was me, that was me, that was my forte. And after I got out of school, he retired and cut the program entirely. Cut it out of the state system, going and some personnel and leave issues I was couldn't take as much time during the summers as I wanted to, because the ag position was 12 months, and the coordinator for the county basically told me, she said, Look, you're either going to have to work 12 months full time or you got to switch to a trades and industry position as 10-month employment and take your summers off. It's do or die. And I said, well, I honestly want to go 10-month. I really do. And it was a pay cut, a big pay cut, because you're losing two months of paycheck.

And at the time, we had a really good second ag teaching position. We built the program into two teachers, and I knew that if I left, he or if I switched, he would maintain the program and excel with and he has, he's done great. Man's name Jason Salter. He's a local guy, so I did some schoolwork and transition to trades in the industry. Went to full time welding technology, and we rewrote the curriculum for marine trades. Got it passed by the Board of Education, put everything together. We being me and pet cat, I guess, you know, I just went off of what the students needed in this county. There's so much marine industry here, whether it be pleasure boats, whether it be ferries, whether it be tugs, unfortunately, employment positions here, for guys is not that readily available. For good, steady, long-term income career, career options are limited. Career male career options in Carteret County are limited. Cherry Point, the nursing industry, and then after that, it's like the ferry division or work on tugs and dredges, and it's a three weeks on, three weeks off. And unfortunately, that's the cost of living in a rural area where there's not much employment.

So seeing that need, we kind of wrote the curriculum to base students in the marine trades, boat building, boat repair and captain's license, deckhand first meet, we teach navigation. We teach not tie and rope, splice and the things that you would take in an AV Coast Guard class. We try to give them a base knowledge so when they go in, they're not lost. You know, it gives them a foot in the door. I've always, since I started teaching, I've always employed students shrimp and during the summer. They keep documents of sea time. They use it towards captain's license and AV tickets. Almost every crewman that I've had has gone on into the marine trades field and used all the sea time, all the knowledge that they use off the boats for future careers. My dog, my deck boss that graduated last year, went into officer school in the Coast Guard, but asked buddy and Angie's boy, Boaty, he was my deck boss, perfect. He worked with me for three years, filled out three years' worth of seat on one and you know, he used that towards his Coast Guard credentials. So it's really, really, really beneficial for me personally. It keeps me young. Those boys are me just 20 years ago, and I love it. It takes a lot of patience. Don't get me wrong. You know, they are teenage boys, and they will test you.

You change a lot as you take as a teacher, you realize you're not going to save the world, and you pay that your paycheck is not going to change putting up with disrespect. Classroom management changes. If you're a problem, go sit in a different class, not mine, and they, you know, they, you build that relationship as a friend, but also as a teacher. I've got students come tell me, just by anything that's on their mind. The plane crash a few years ago was tough, and I had a lot of I had some students that come set my room and bawled their eyes out. And I was glad, because, you know, I was, I was glad to be that person. But that comes as a double-edged sword, because then I think that get away with some stuff. You know that I and I explained that I'll be your daddy, your friend, your teacher, whatever it is, but at the end of the day, I'm a professional teacher, and this is the way it's going to be. This is an educational setting. We got rugged in a little bit. Our good kids are. I love our student base, and I see, I see those little rascals, those teenage boys, they tested patients, but they're, they're no

different. I was people talk about student Oh, they're, they're so much worse now than having worse than I was when I was in high school. We just didn't have cell phones to document it. I can guarantee you that one.

1:05:45

And do you get many, like girls in the marine trades program or not so much?

1:05:51

No, most. I mean, maybe 10% maybe—so in a class of 20, you'll have two girls, something like that. Every once while you'll see a little clique of girls that you know, five of them will take the class together because they're friends, and they've gone to schedule that they're gonna take all sign up at St John, Hey, dad.

1:06:14

Is there any renters?

1:06:16

Yes. Are they renting it still?

Yes. Why do you ask?

Just because I wanted to know, yes, there is. So don't bother. Okay, that's okay.

1:06:36

Is Mommy up yet? Should we check make sure she's still breathing. What time? Tim Fitz, she's got to be up.

1:06:44

We and also, we can end this whenever you're ready, but we don't want to take too much of your time. Today, she's in there relaxing or exercising or something. She's probably sitting on the couch listening.

1:06:56

They need the downtime. The moms need the downtime. Well,

1:06:59

we went Jacks last night, and had a had an adult night out, and we didn't get here at home till about one o'clock this morning. The Dallas is snooze button does not work. So I tried to normally be the DD, because I know I'm going to get up at six o'clock in the morning, whether I like it or not. So I was the DD last night. I got up early knocking around the

1:07:21

house. Was that Jack's last night too, and I was the DD

1:07:25

you were I told Karen, I said I would have seen them to Jax last night. Not known it, yeah, yeah. We were there. It was about like, I think it was five couples, 10 of us come there. Yeah, we were over by the security guard stage. They were good last, yeah, spare chip. We always go when spare change goes, we're like, spare change group, because there's one girl in her group that's like, she'd go to Raleigh to see him, I think, yeah, it was good time. What time did y'all leave one he stayed for the afterband party? Yeah, that's great. No wonder y'all were sleeping in. I told Karen to leave him alone. I said, No, leave him alone. I love to see him the jacks last night. Yep, you're exactly right. How many of y'all went? Did all six of you go? Just

1:08:14

three of us? I don't know if you know Lily Johnson. Her family has a house, but I don't she knew her brother was friends with one of the like, the guitarist, the redhead, okay, and so we went, and her dad actually came for that stayed out till 11, which is crazy, but it was good, good time.

1:08:34

It was good time. It was rally. Last night. We'd been there. I went one time back, I think it was March, and it was, like a private show. There was probably only 10, like, there was 10 people there. Wow, in addition to us, we're like, eight of the 18 people that was in the bar that night. But they always have a good time.

1:08:55

Oh yeah, it's great. Yeah. Anyways, so back to back to teaching. So the kids that you're teaching now are a lot of them going over to work at Cherry Point still like after they graduate.

1:09:18

Cherry Point is a love-hate relationship. It is definitely a major, major employment base for this county, both young and old. My brother works there as an engineer. I've got a good friend as a project planner. I've got, at this point, probably dozens of students that work there on all levels of facets. I've got some of them that went into engineering, you know, I've got some at the top of the totem pole and some at the bottom. I've had a lot that have the dream of a federal job. Job with health insurance and benefits in retirement, and go there and they can't do it. And I could have told them that in high school, and some of them, I really have it takes. You know, as a teacher, you see the mentality, especially in a shop class, because we don't sit them down in an English classroom and do but what we're in the shop, we're doing stuff. You know, I can see kind of the job foreman-type people. I can kind of see the worker type people. I can see the blueprints type people. I can see the rough and tough construction type people like, hey, that kid's gonna be great on a bridge building site. That kid's gonna be great running an excavator. That kid's gonna be great working at Cherry Point, doing the same thing technically every day, day in and day out, and making sure it's exactly right. That kid's going to be great disassembling an airplane and reassembling and reading every single little detail in the instruction. And the guy, that's the build bridge builder, ain't gonna make it at Cherry Point it. They don't have the mentality they go there and the thought of the job is good, but the reality they can't do it. They can't do it. It's not for everybody. So those kids are the ones that sit down say, hey, I know Cherry Point is Plan A. Let's talk about Plan B. You know, what's your other interest? Well, you know, I thought about going into the military. I've thought about going and driving boats. I thought about going to diesel school, diesel mechanic school, you know, and you as a shop teacher, you see that mentality a job foreman really needs to be mildly ADD, because he's got five different people doing five different things at one time, and that kind of person excels at it because they can, they can bounce and keep it all straight, you know what I mean?

And as a teacher, you get to see that, and it's something that you know, I'm not necessarily sure that your academic teachers get that opportunity to observe students, or maybe even parents. Parents might not think about that mentality I've had. Fact, one of my best students, he helped me build the boat. His parents drove, drove, drove, go to engineer and go, be an engineer. Go. You know, it's a good job. It's well paid. You making \$100,000 a year. It's federal yada yada. He ain't an engineer. He can do it. He's smart enough. He's he can pass every class with straight A's. They don't enjoy math. He don't enjoy sitting in a computer and doing clicking. It's not his cup of tea. And he went into engineering school, and within a year, said, I can't do it. I got I got to get out. I cannot do this as a career. It's great. It's good to learn, but I can't do it as a career for 30 years. And I try. You know, his daddy is one of my number one crew men. Worked with me all fall and winter, and I said, Billy, you've got to understand, you've got to dedicate 30 years to this. And if it's not, if it's not your passion, the

money ain't going to make any difference if you ain't happy making the career out of it, you know. So that's a little insight to kind of seeing your Down East boys in shop class and then thinking about, what are they going to be in the future? What's What would spark that kid's interest? You know, somebody's got to drive the ferry. Somebody's got to tie the ferry up. Somebody's got to drive a tug from Charleston to Norfolk. You're retired every other week, buddy. It's not that bad. Don't let people say, Oh, well, this sucks. This is a you're going to go to any job you go to and find people that hate that job. Generally speaking, those people are going to hate working in a pie factory. It's just the mentality of the person. Don't pay attention to it. You know, you can go to each car right now, there's 100 you know, there's 100 students that absolutely hate school. When they go to college, they're going to hate college. You know what? I mean, it's, it's kind of that mentality. That's what you try to shift in students look at the glass half full and try to build into something that's enjoyable. Just sit back and enjoy Joy things did that is that answer in your

1:14:54

Oh, yeah, no, that's wonderful. And I just have one more question about like on the school side. Side of things, what would you hope that you know this marine trades curriculum would be in the future and or do you just like the way it is right now? Do you think it works?

1:15:14

Oh, wow, it does work. I think as far as future, the longevity of the future of the student, generally speaking, is probably better as the captain AB, boat handling, boat maneuvering option versus boat construction. The employment opportunity for somebody that's a captain is unlimited. It's unbelievable. The employment opportunity for somebody that can fiberglass is very limited. Jarrett Bay's got 30 employees that, you know, build the boat. Only five of them are on the fiberglass crew. So the employment options, yeah, we build a boat. They learn how to fiberglass. They learn they learn that trade. But the longevity and the career option, you're better off to teach and focus on captain's license stuff, boat handling, boat knowledge, tying up, rope handling, that kind of thing, because the employment opportunity sky's the limit. You think about the marine world, you know, that's a pretty good option. The downside is, and I wanted to do that as a high school student, I told my parents I was going on tug. They said, No, you're going to college first, and then if you want to, you can go get on tug, because we know how tugs work, three on, three off. And you don't think about having a wife and kids right now, but the three one is misery. When you got wife and kids, and they made me go to college for that reason, they could kind of see into the future. And I was too, you know, couldn't see in front of my face. That's the downside to pushing kids in that career. You know, Bodie Goodwin, for example, I guarantee you, on any given day, he's homesick. The problem is, home doesn't have any paychecks. You know, what are you going to do living on Cedar island? So for him, he's got to pay his dues, and it sucks, but it's life. I had to. I had to spend six years getting two college degrees that I hated every I hate it, every second of it. I'd a much rather being home. But you, you had to pay your dues. My wife's the same way. She's got three college degrees. She had to pay her dues because that's what you have to do as a young person if you want a positive future and want that easy living. We're easily living in Carteret County right now, and it took a lot of blood, sweat and tears from age 18 to age 25 is it was hard, and that's hard to get high school students to realize, especially when you don't have parents, that's on the same futuristic mentality, though, you know, and not all parents are have that vision, and just like you're on your own, make your own decisions, not all of them. Some parents want them to be engineers, and that the kid, you know, it's not kids for tech, and you push them in some other direction. That's a positive outlook. Yeah,

1:18:56

And for your kids in the future here, what? What do you hope for them to get out there?

1:19:06

Yes, sir, just on slow gear. Okay.

1:19:16

What do you hope for them to get out of their childhood here?

1:19:22

You know, we always go around on introductions of the class, or go around Introduce yourself. What do you want to be when you always do that typical questionnaire, meet and greet. You know, what do you want to be when you grow up? And it was, I think, about 10 years in, I had a young lady, and she was, she was out there, she was kind of, shoot, even in high school, kind of nose rings and crazy dress dyed hair. And when I asked her what she want to be when she grow up, pick. Grew up, she said, I want to be happy. You know, my chin hit the floor because I had never really thought about a lot of that. You know, I think I don't. I just want my kids to be happy. I don't expect a doctor or a lawyer or brain surgeon if he's happy being a janitor. Think about your 10 year plan. And if that's what you want to be and you're happy, go for it. But think about it 10 years from now. Don't think about it right now. Think about it 10 years. And that's probably what my parents were forcing me to do, going to college. They at least first year they forced me to go to college, and I was too narrow minded to see that they were looking 10 years down the road, because if I going on a tug 10 years down the road, I don't think I would have been happy. And they could kind of read into that with me a little bit, as well as my brother. Yeah. So that, I guess that's my hope for my kids, is just be happy if you're happy living in Raleigh, I'm fine with that. I'll go visit shoot. I might even live and buy a vacation home there. I want them to enjoy a life. I do that here, but I'm on me, and if nothing else. Having kids, you realize that they're not you, that they're different. Everybody's different. Everybody's got their own little things of what makes them happy, what they enjoy, and that kind of stuff. My wife, we got in a boat, she's happy sitting on the beach. I'm about to pull my hair out, sitting on the beach. I'm busy having my little boy. Was best thing ever happened to me, because he, he's into everything. He gives me that. Let's go do this. All right, now we've done it. Let's go do that. Let's you know, he's very bad. I'm that person. I like to bounce and I really like having the boy because the girl, she's kind of got into, I just enjoy laying out on the beach, and now I've got just got a teenage girl. She always go tubing, but that's about it. So the boy keeps me active.

1:22:35

That's good. That is good. Well, that's all the questions I had. Ryan, do you have Okay? Is there anything else that we didn't get to? No,

1:22:46

my God, we've covered about 18 rabbits. It's just in rabbits. I'm bad about that. I'll go off on a tangent.

1:22:55

No, that's great.

1:23:00

Shut up. Peaches.

1:23:03

Well, I don't have consent forms, so maybe this interview was just, we can either say

1:23:11

I give you permission to use anything and everything I said. Zachary Davis, electronically, voice signing.

1:23:22

I don't honestly, I'm gonna stop the recording.